

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-14

RE: C.A. NO. 20-14 (P.C. NO. 20-47)/W&M

SUBJECT: VETO OVERRIDE OF C.A. NO. 20-14

JULY 11, 2017

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Twentieth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
First Special Session, 2017

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways & Means, to which was referred Presidential Communication No. 20-47, regarding the veto of Congressional Act No. 20-14, entitled:

"AN ACT TO FURTHER AMEND TITLE 3 OF THE CODE OF THE  
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (ANNOTATED), AS  
AMENDED, BY INSERTING A NEW SECTION 305 TO CHAPTER 3  
TO PLACE A STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS  
THAT CONGRESS MAY APPROPRIATE TO MEMBERS'  
REPRESENTATION FUNDS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this act are expressed in its title.

Your Committee has reviewed Congressional Act No. 20-14 and the accompanying veto message (P.C. No. 20-47). Your Committee did not find any legal impediments or drafting errors in the Act. Your Committee has determined that the veto is purely based on policy. After substantial deliberation, your Committee has concluded that it disagrees with the policy behind the veto, and your Committee supports an override of the veto.

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Your Committee notes that P.C. No. 20-47 cites the fact that the act applies specifically to the representation funds of members of Congress, and not also to the representation funds of the President and Vice President, as the first reason given for the President's decision to veto the act. Your Committee wishes to state that the Executive is welcome to submit to Congress a separate bill to place a statutory limit on appropriations to the representation funds of the President and Vice President.

Your Committee would also like to note that, although the final paragraph of P.C. No. 20-47 expresses concern about certain members of Congress who may have spent more than \$100,000 of representation funds in prior fiscal years, the intent of this act is not to penalize any particular members of Congress for past expenditures that were not prohibited at the time they were made. C.A. No. 20-14 is meant, rather, to be forward-looking, and its intent is to set a statutory limit on a particular type of future appropriations by Congress.

#### CONCLUSION

Your Committee has reviewed the veto of Congressional Act No. 20-14 and the accompanying veto message. Your Committee finds that the decision made by the Executive was made based on policy and not on a violation of the law. Your Committee disagrees with this policy decision and recommends overriding the veto of Congressional Act No. 20-14.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Isaac V. Figir  
Isaac V. Figir, chairman

/s/ David W. Panuelo  
David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Victor V. Gouland  
Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Ferny S. Perman  
Ferny S. Perman, member

/s/ Robson U. Romolow  
Robson U. Romolow, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal, member

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, member